



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Council resolution calling for a new presidential election to be sent to President Shelly for consideration

WINDOW ROCK—On Tuesday, the Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0341-14, which will provide for a special run-off election and a special general election for the offices of the President and Vice President, if signed into law by President Ben Shelly.

In addition, the bill would provide approximately \$317,000 to the Navajo Election Administration to fund the elections.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake) has repeatedly urged his Council colleagues to seek a new presidential election to address disenfranchised voters who cast votes for former presidential candidate Chris Deschene, who was disqualified from the presidential race following the primary election held in August.

According to the proposed schedule attached to the legislation, the run-off election would occur in June 2015 and a special general election would take place in August 2015, with the swearing in of a new president in September.

The legislation also states that only the 17 original candidates who ran in the 2014 primary election shall be qualified for the special run-off election if they choose to do so.

Council members voted 11-1 in favor of the legislation, which is expected to be sent to the Office of the President and Vice President on Wednesday. President Shelly will have ten calendar days to consider the council resolution.

Following the approval of the legislation, Council members approved Legislation No. 0391-14, a bill also sponsored by Delegate Tsosie that seeks to pardon and reinstate nine former members of the Navajo Board of Election Supervisors.

On Oct. 31, the Navajo Nation Supreme Court held the nine members in contempt for failing to comply with a Supreme Court order to remove Deschene from the ballot for the general election.

The legislation states that the court order failed to expressly identify the NBOES to carry out the act of removing Deschene from the ballot, but issued the order to the Navajo Election Administration.

Furthermore, it states that the NBOES were not given due process and equal protection and were not provided with individual hearings to allow the members to defend themselves.

Delegate Tsosie has previously stated that the reinstatement of the board members is necessary in order to certify the outcome of the election.

Council members voted 11-1 in support of the legislation, which is expected to be sent to the Office of the President and Vice President for consideration.

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